

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OPEC: US SHOULD LET THE MARKET DO THE WORK

NOTING THAT THE SHAH SEEMS TO BE PLAYING A WAITING GAME  
WITH REGARD TO THE OPEC PRICING SYSTEM, EMBASSY TEHRAN  
SUGGESTS THE US DO THE SAME. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY:

--NORMAL MARKET FORCES HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF IN-  
FLUENCING OPEC PRICES.

--A US MANEUVER TO AFFECT PRICES COULD PROVIDE AMMU-  
NITION FOR OPEC HARDLINERS AND UNDERCUT MORE MODERATE  
VOICES.

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--ASPIRATIONS OF THE HARDLINERS ARE NOT LIKELY TO  
CHANGE IN ANY CASE, SO THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM  
SHOULD BE CONSISTENT AND ABOVEBOARD.

THE EMBASSY ALSO BELIEVES THE US SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE  
MAJOR OIL COMPANIES TO INCREASE THEIR PRESSURE ON THE OPEC

ELEVEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEHRAN 734, 1/24.)

## 2. CHARTER 77 HURTS PRAGUE'S IMAGE

EMBASSY PRAGUE REPORTS THAT CHARTER 77 HAS MOVED INTO THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AS ITS SUBSCRIBERS SEEK SUPPORT FROM ABROAD AND THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO LINK THE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT WITH EXTERNAL FORCES. THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT FOREIGN REACTION TO CHARTER 77, ESPECIALLY THAT OF WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS, DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CHARTER REPRESENTS A LITMUS TEST FOR THE EUROPEAN LEFT. IF THE ATMOSPHERE WORSENS, NATO AND NEUTRAL SIGNATORIES OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT MAY NOT IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNPOPULAR PRAGUE REGIME. RECENT CRITICISM BY FOREIGN MINISTER THORN OF LUXEMBOURG DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO PRAGUE, COUPLED WITH THE POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF VISITS BY OTHER HIGH EUROPEAN OFFICIALS, MAY INDICATE THAT THIS PROCESS HAS ALREADY BEGUN. (CONFIDENTIAL) PRAGUE 216, 1/24.)

## 3. KAUNDA BEATS DRUMS FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT

IN TOURING WEST AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS MADE STATEMENTS SUGGESTING ZAMBIAN SUCCESS IN GAINING RECOGNITION FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF). EMBASSY LUSAKA REPORTS THAT, WHILE PARTIALLY TRUE, THESE STATEMENTS DO NOT REFLECT THE LUKEWARM RESPONSE FROM NIGERIA AND GHANA AND THE OUTRIGHT OPPOSITION OF LIBERIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN VIEW OF NIGERIA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC

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NOMIC CLOUD, ITS FAILURE TO ENDORSE THE PF COULD BE A SETBACK. LIBERIA'S ATTITUDE SHOWS THE FRONTLINE STATES MUST LOBBY ASSIDUOUSLY TO OBTAIN OAU BACKING AT ITS MEETING THIS WEEKEND. DESPITE THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME STATES, HOWEVER, A SOLID SHOWING BY MACHEL, NYERERE, AND KAUNDA WILL BE HARD FOR OTHER OAU MEMBERS TO RESIST. (CONFIDENTIAL) LUSAKA 207, 1/24.)

## 4. GUYANA SEEKS COMECON TIE

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GUYANA CHRONICLE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER HOYTE STATED THAT GUYANA IS SEEKING AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC MUTUAL ASSISTANCE (CEMA). HE SAID ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, NOT IDEOLOGY, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOVE.

EMBASSY GEORGETOWN HAS LEARNED THAT, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO CUBA, HOYTE TOLD CASTRO THAT GUYANA HOPED TO SERVE AS A LINK BETWEEN CEMA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND LATIN

AMERICA. CASTRO COUNTERED THAT THIS ROLE WAS AND WOULD  
REMAIN EXCLUSIVELY CUBA'S.

EMBASSY COMMENT: GUYANA APPEARS TO BE TAKING A BIG STEP  
TOWARD THE EAST IN HOPES OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE AND  
POLITICAL PRESTIGE. THE COST IS STILL UNKNOWN, AS CUBA  
HAS CORNERED THE CEMA MARKET IN GUYANA'S ONLY COMMODITY,  
SUGAR. THE IDEA OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUYANA SERVING AS  
CEMA'S LINK IN LATIN AMERICA SEEMS TO US ABSURD, AND IS  
INDICATIVE OF THE CONFUSED THINKING THAT CHARACTERIZES  
ITS FOREIGN POLICY. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN 161 AND  
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) 162, 1/24.)  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009